

Environmental Sustainability Policy

March 2019
Policy Review Date: Mar 2020

OBJECTIVE

Mull and Iona Community Trust recognises that its activities at all levels affect the environment of Mull and Iona, associated islands, the surrounding seas and the wider world environment. This statement of policy describes the ways in which MICT will seek to avoid, reduce and mitigate the effects of its activities on the environment as a whole and encourage best environmental practice wherever it can.

“Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) seeks ‘...To advance environmental protection or improvement including preservation, sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment, the maintenance, improvement or provision of environmental amenities for the Community and/or the preservation of buildings or sites of architectural, historic or other importance to the Community;’ [Article (4.5) “Articles of Association”]

1. **In pursuit of this Objective MICT recognises and respects the principles of:**
 - **Sustainable Development – defined as...***development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs* - and also
 - **Environmental Justice - defined as...***a decent environment for all, with no more than a fair share of the world’s resources.*
2. **MICT shall promote awareness of this Objective and shall aim to demonstrate good environmental practice in all of its own operations and shall encourage best practice throughout the Isles of Mull and Iona and beyond.**
3. **MICT recognises the benefits of partnership working and collaboration to protect and conserve the environment and so.**
 - shall seek to extend the opportunities for local participation in environmental decision making, community stewardship, practical conservation of resources and other activity to improve the environment.
 - shall encourage and support wider engagement of business, community and other interests to protect and conserve the environment.
4. **MICT shall work to improve its own environmental performance, particularly in relation to:**
 - **Waste Management and Conservation of Resources by**
 - Ensuring it disposes of its own wastes in ways that meet or exceed legal obligations, regulations, etc.,
 - Ensuring support for community engagement in the development and implementation of waste plans.
 - Ensuring support for Best Practicable Environmental Options (BPEO) for waste disposal.
 - Ensuring support for ‘Zero Waste’ targets and measures to minimise waste throughout the islands, including reduction, repair, re-use, recovery and recycling.
 - **Environmental Purchasing Policy**

MICT shall

 - Assess where possible and practicable the relative environmental merits of products and services that it plans to acquire and use. It shall make every practical effort to use goods and services that meet the highest standards under those assessments, taking into account recyclability, ecological impact, life cycle analysis, etc.
 - Favour those suppliers who pursue best environmental practice, where practical.
 - Practice energy efficiency in its own purchase of services (switching appliances off; sharing transport etc.)
 - Follow a hierarchy when making transport arrangements (in descending order of desirability). Walking, cycling, public transport (not including air transport), vehicle sharing. Air travel should only be covered as a last resort Whenever practical, travel should be replaced by telephone/video conferencing.
5. **MICT will consider and address local implications of wider ecological concerns (within available means and in collaboration with other bodies), including:**
 - Climate change,
 - Biodiversity,

- Sustainable management of resources,
- Environmental pollution.

6. In particular, MICT shall encourage, facilitate, or undertake:

- research and development concerned with local environmental well-being
- environmental data collection of and monitoring of local trends affecting Mull and Iona and the dissemination of focussed and authoritative interpretation of local environmental information
- training and educational activity relating to protection or conservation of the environment, including initiatives involving MICT personnel, local schools, businesses, the wider community and visitors to the islands

7. Responsibility for implementation and review of MICT's Environmental Policy rests with the Directors of MICT.

This statement has been approved by the Board of Mull and Iona Community Trust at its meeting on